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# Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd

Minutes of Board of Directors meeting held at Co-operative  
Purchasing Services Ltd, Wednesday, 21 March 2001 at 10.30 a.m.

Present: D. Griffiths (Chair), C.Greenwood, Peter Jamieson, N.Black, T. O'Shea  
and G. Charles (Executive Officer)

Apologies: John Luckman, Ron Stone and Val Ogier

The Chairman noted that John Luckman had a leave of absence and welcomed  
Tony O'Shea to his first board meeting.

## Board Minutes

**Resolved that the minutes of the board meeting held on 18 December 2000  
be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting and duly signed  
by the Chair.**

## Resignation

In apologising for not attending this meeting, Ron Stone also submitted his  
resignation.

**Resolved to accept Ron Stone's resignation with regret and that this be  
conveyed by the Executive Officer.**

## Action List

The Chairman reported that the Action List had been amended with the addition  
of two extra columns:

- **Agenda Item** – to identify whether or not an item was on the agenda for  
the meeting
- **Item Status** – to identify whether or not an item was ongoing, completed  
and initiated

## Co-operation Awards

The Chairman and Executive Office reported that it had been decided to circulate  
the terms of reference to those co-operators who had served on the Co-operation  
Awards Committee and that constructive comments had been received from  
John Gill, Brian McIntosh and Owen Slattery.

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The Chairman said that the comments would be circulated to directors. He requested directors to consider the terms of reference and that members would be advised in the next issue of the Victorian Co-operative News of the review.

**Resolved to write to John Gill, Brian McIntosh and Owen Slattery to thank them for their comments, regretting their resignation from the Co-operation Awards Selection Committee and advising that they would be subsequently advised of the further deliberations of the board.**

**Resolved to suspend the Co-operation Awards for this year.**

#### CBAV

The Executive Officer reported that Consumer Business Affairs Victoria had forwarded the approved funding of \$25,000.

The Chairman circulated to directors copies of the funding agreement with the Business Services Division, Office of Fair Trading and Business Affairs.

It was noted by the Chairman that the funding agreement required the Federation to maintain Public Liability Insurance of at least \$5 million and the Executive Officer reported that our existing policy was for \$1 million.

It was agreed that the Executive Officer would discuss with our insurer the cost of extending our Public Liability Insurance from \$1 million to \$5 million.

#### DNE

The Executive Officer reported that agreement had been reached with DNE for securing funding of \$30,000 for the project Co-operatives Development for Rural Community Groups and Emerging Agricultural Industries.

The Chairman circulated to directors copies of the funding agreement with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

**Resolved that for the Project the Executive Officer be paid \$30 an hour.**

#### Web Site

The Chairman reported that he had undertaken further work on the development of the web site and circulated to directors copies of the site map. He reported that in the last week he had spent approximately 30 hours on the site's development. He reported that with a further 30 hours next week he expected work on the site to be completed and forwarded to the North East Telecommunications Co-operative for resolving technical problems and uploading.

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It was noted that it was important to update the site on a regular basis.

It was agreed to plan for the launch of the web site at the Tom Webb seminar.

### Executive Officer Term of Appointment

The Chairman reported that the Executive Officer Working Party had met and concluded that the position description as amended was appropriate and did not require change.

He noted that the meeting commenced at 10.30 a.m. and that there had been a misunderstanding and that Val Ogier had arrived after 11.00 a.m. by which time the meeting had concluded. The Chairman said that he accepted responsibility for the misunderstanding.

### The Co-operative Difference: Developing Directors of Co-operatives

There was a discussion on the Developing Directors of Co-operatives Kit prepared by Active Learning & Communication Co-operative Ltd (ALCC).

The Chairman reported that he had edited the Kit and that it was now with Words In Time for arranging the printing.

The Chairman reported that he and the Executive Officer had met with ALCC's David Shires on 15 March 2001 because ALCC had resubmitted its proposal for a strategic alliance.

He reported that the suggested specifics of this alliance included:

- Development and distribution of a Co-opAdvantage brochure.
- Cold canvassing by telephone and visits to co-operatives.
- Promoting sales of the Co-opAdvantage Developing Directors of Co-operatives Kit.
- Promoting Co-opAdvantage Developing Directors of Co-operatives Introductory Workshops.
- Participation in Co-opAdvantage Developing Directors of Co-operatives Introductory Workshops.

There was discussion on the capacity of ALCC to participate in a joint initiative in the absence of David Shires and it was agreed that this should be clarified with ALCC.

**Resolved to agree in principle to a strategic alliance with the Active Learning & Communications Co-operative Ltd (ALCC) to promote Co-opAdvantage Developing Directors of Co-operatives Kit and Introductory Workshops and for the development of initiatives on a project by project and subject to mutual agreement.**

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**Resolved that the Chairman and Executive Officer continue negotiations with ALCC and that the negotiated Memorandum of Agreement be circulated to directors for ratification by postal vote.**

#### **Finance**

**Resolved that the Statement of Receipts & Payments 1/11/2000 – 28/02/2001 be received and the accounts confirmed for payment.**

#### **New Member**

**Resolved to accept the following new member for membership and allocate shares accordingly:**

**North East Flower Growers Co-operative Ltd**

**Resolved that Geoffrey Turnbull be appointed a delegate for North East Flower Growers Co-operative Ltd**

The Executive Officer reported that he was hopeful that two new co-operatives would also apply for membership:

Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd

North East Rural Education Project Co-operative Ltd

#### **Membership Subscriptions**

The Executive Officer reported that two 1999/2000 active members had now renewed their membership for 2000/2001:

Murray Goulburn Co-op Co Ltd \$3700

Hopetoun Community Hotel Co-operative Ltd \$150

It was noted that seven 1999/2000 active members had not renewed for 2000/01 as of 19 March 2001:

Ballarat Community Development Centre (\$750)

Co-op Development Services Ltd (\$50)

Essendon Rental Housing Co-op (\$250)

Kensington Community Children's Co-op (\$300)

Mulkirri Co-op (\$50)

Newmarket Co-operative (\$50)

Rural Industries Co-op Ltd (\$50)

It was noted that the Executive Officer would follow-up with Ron Stone concerning the membership subscription of the Ballarat Community Development Centre.

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## Membership Cancellations

The Executive Officer reported that the following members had been advised in writing that their membership would be cancelled and their shares forfeited unless they paid their 1999/2000 membership subscriptions.

Ballarat Childcare Co-op Ltd  
Ballarat Taxis Co-op Ltd  
Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron Co-op Ltd  
Cape Volney Co-op Ltd  
Consolidated Herd Improvement Co-op Ltd  
Dandenong & District Aborigines Co-op Ltd  
Down to Earth (Victoria) Co-op Ltd  
Emu Farmers Co-op Ltd  
Gippsland Tip Truck Hiring Co-op Ltd  
Green Lands Co-op Ltd  
Hopetoun Courier Co-op Ltd  
Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-op Soc Ltd  
Macauley Community Credit Union Co-op Ltd  
Mirboo North Newspaper Co-op Ltd  
Moonee Creek Co-op Ltd  
Moorabin Rental Housing Co-op Ltd  
Muslim Community Co-op (Australia) Ltd  
Skye Childrens Co-op Ltd  
South Barwon Rental Housing Co-op Ltd  
Timboon Herd Improvement Co-op Ltd  
Victorian Venison Producers Co-op Ltd  
Warm Corners Co-op Ltd  
West Gippsland Herd Improvement Co-op Ltd  
Wombat Co-op Ltd

The Executive Officer reported that as a result of the cancellation notice that the Victorian Venison Producers Co-op Ltd had paid its membership and he had met with the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron Co-op Ltd last week and the co-operative had indicated its willingness to remain a member subject to its board's approval.

## Co-operative Council of Australia

The Executive Officer reported that the Co-operative Council of Australia had had no response to letters.

Chris Greenwood reported the Working Party had produced its report by the end of January deadline and he understood it was awaiting a response from the Ministerial Council that was expected by the end of this month.

It was noted that the Executive Officer would liaise with the Victorian Government on progress.

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## Correspondence

The Executive Officer tabled a list of correspondence.

The Chairman noted that he and Co-operative Energy Ltd had donated publications to the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. He expressed surprise that the Federation had very few publications.

The Chairman noted that in response to a letter of 1 March 2001 enclosing a copy of the UK Co-operative Commission report *The Co-operative Advantage*, there had been responses of 6 March 2001 from Mr P.J.Ryan, Leader, of the National Party Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Minister for Regional Development, and 15 March 2001 from Dr. D.V.Napthine, Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition but no response from the Government. It was agreed to follow-up the responses from Mr. Ryan and Dr. Napthine.

It was also noted that the unique relationship between the co-operative and labor movements in the UK did not exist in Victoria and was not being advocated for Victoria.

Resolved to note the correspondence tabled.

## Marketing Our Co-operative Advantage

There was a discussion of the visit of Tom Webb, of Global Co-operation, to Australia in May 2001.

The Executive Officer reported that the CEO of the Warrnambool Co-operative Society Ltd had expressed an interest in jointly sponsoring a Tom Webb seminar on 13 and/or 14 May 2001 and that he would visit Warrnambool on 26 March 2001 to secure an agreement with the CEO.

The Executive Officer also reported that there had also been separate discussions with Peter Gates, Deputy Chairman, Advantage Credit Union and Peter Challis, General Manager, WAW Credit Union about jointly auspicing seminars. He said that Advantage had been interested but had informed him today that it was too busy. He said that the WAW credit union had also expressed interest, had decided not to proceed but that he would revisit the issue with WAW.

Peter Jamieson offered to explore with the Department of State and Regional Development the possibility of some funding support.

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There was a discussion on a CFV banner that could be used at the Webb seminar and for other events. It was agreed that the Chairman would follow-up CPS for quotes and that Peter Jamieson would also seek a quote. It was also noted that the cost of the banner could be taken from the \$1500 allocated for the Webb seminar.

### Dairy Co-operatives

N.Black reported on his work on the issue of the future of dairy co-operatives.

The Chairman distributed copies of these articles from The Weekly Times 14 March 2001:

- Dairy bid fails to impress, p 4
- Jackson, Monica 'Collective' is the call, p 4
- Jackson, Monica Kiwis win Bonlac hearts, p 4
- Jackson, Monica Mergers the name of the milk game, p 85

Neil also reported on the Geoffrey Gardner Foundation and his advocacy that it should sponsor research on co-operative theory and practice.

**Resolved that a statement be issued on the importance of dairy co-operatives and that N.Black and C.Greenwood prepare a draft for consideration by the Chairman and Executive Officer.**

### UDV

The Executive Officer reported that Heather Waddell, UDV, had not responded to two telephone calls and two emails re co-operative director training.

It was agreed that the Executive Officer would write to the UDV and that N.Black would raise the issue with Peter Sherman.

### Fuel Co-operatives

The Chairman reported that the Department of State and Regional Development had requested CDS Ltd to consult with the Federation on the second stage of the project.

### Energy Aggregation

The Chairman noted that an authorisation to negotiate energy supply arrangements form would be mailed next week to members who had expressed interest in participating in the aggregation project.

### Membership of CPS

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There was a further discussion of membership of CPS and the issue of whether or not to provide in the Rules for the board to have the discretion to waive the membership subscription to the Federation.

There was discussion on the precedent this could establish and the implicit assumption that the Federation should be a member of member co-operatives.

**Resolved to write to CPS and advise that we should be in a position to pay the 2001-2002 membership subscription.**

NEXT MEETING: 13 or 14 May 2001 at Warrnambool with time, date and location to be confirmed.

Prepared and checked by Chairman and Executive Officer: 21 – 24 March 2001  
Mailed: 25 March 2001